

Comments

In the last office action, the examiner rejected the claims citing Anderson (US 6840773) against claims 1,3,7-8, 19 and 20 under 35 USC 102 (b).

The Examiner also rejected claims 1-3 and 5 under 35 USC 102 (b) by JP 11263629 (the Japanese reference).

Other claims were rejected based on the Japanese reference in combination with Glover, Lupoi and Bossell.

Proposed claim language A and B now recite structural distinctions over these references also an English translation of the Japanese references is enclosed to show that the reference does not disclose or suggest a decorative ceramic element as is now recited in the proposed claim language.

Anderson discloses a magnetic decorative element for decorating a refrigerator. It does not disclose a decorative ceramic element for decorating a microwave oven as now recited in claim 1 of proposal A or the features of a decorative ceramic element with a decorative design therein and being formed of one or more variably sized and shaped strips affixed at different locations on the microwave oven as now recited in claim 1 of proposal B.

The Japanese reference discloses an antimicrobial crystallized glass where ceramic powder is used (see par. 00006) of the MAT translation but not a decorative ceramic elements as recited in claim 1 of proposals A and B.

Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that these references alone or in combination with the other references cited in the last office action do not teach or disclose the invention as now recited in the proposed amended claim language.

Respectfully submitted

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